

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1672

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mr. CICILLINE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. POCAN, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. GARAMENDI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing by designating and supporting manufacturing communities.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Make It In America
5 Manufacturing Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) MANUFACTURING COMMUNITY SUPPORT
9 PROGRAM.—The term “Manufacturing Community

1 Support Program” means the program established
2 under section 3(a).

(3) PARTICIPATING PROGRAM.—The term “participating program” means a program identified by a participating agency under section 3(c)(1)(C).

10 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Commerce.

12 SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO DESIGNATE AND SUPPORT MANUFAC-
13 TURING COMMUNITIES.

14 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall es-
15 tablish a program to improve the competitiveness of
16 United States manufacturing—

(1) by designating consortiums as manufacturing communities under subsection (b); and

(2) by supporting manufacturing communities,
as so designated, under subsection (c).

21 (b) DESIGNATION OF MANUFACTURING COMMU-
22 NITIES —

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
24 graph (7), for purposes of the Manufacturing Com-
25 munity Support Program, the Secretary shall des-

1 ignate eligible consortiums as manufacturing com-
2 munities through a competitive process.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE CONSORTIUMS.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
5 is a consortium that—

6 (i) represents a region defined by the
7 consortium in accordance with subparagraph
8 (B);

9 (ii) includes at least one—

10 (I) institution of higher education;

11 (II) a private sector entity; and

12 (III) a government entity;

13 (iii) may include one or more—

14 (I) private sector partners;

15 (II) institutions of higher education;

16 (III) government entities;

17 (IV) economic development and
18 other community and labor groups;

19 (V) financial institutions; or

20 (VI) utilities; and

21 (iv) has, as a lead applicant—

22 (I) a district organization (as de-
23 fined in section 300.3 of title 13,

Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulation);

(III) a State or a political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;

14 (IV) an institution of higher edu-
15 cation or a consortium of institutions
16 of higher education; or

17 (V) a public or private nonprofit
18 organization or association that has
19 an application that is supported by a
20 State, a political subdivision of a
21 State, or a native community.

(3) DURATION.—Each designation under paragraph (1) shall be for a period of two years.

9 (4) RENEWAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of an application submitted under subparagraph (B), the Secretary may renew a designation made under paragraph (1) for up to two additional two-year periods. Any designation as a manufacturing community or renewal of such designation that is in effect before the date of the enactment of this Act shall count toward the limit set forth in this subparagraph.

(C) MODIFICATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may renew a designation under subparagraph (A) for an eligible consortium that—

- (i) has changed its composition, either

by adding or removing members; or

- (ii) as part of its application under

subparagraph (B), submits a revision to

the plan submitted under paragraph

(5)(B)(iv) or the strategy submitted under

paragraph (5)(B)(v).

(D) EVALUATION FC

(D) EVALUATION FOR RENEWAL.—In determining whether to renew a designation of an eligible consortium under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assess the eligible consortium based upon—

- (i) the performance of the consortium

against the terms of the consortium's most

recent designation under paragraph (1)

and any post-designation awards the con-

sortium may have received;

- (ii) the progress the consortium has

made with respect to project-specific

metrics the consortium proposed in the

consortium's application for the most re-

cent designation under paragraph (1), par-

1 ticularly with respect to those metrics that
2 were designed to help communities track
3 their own progress;

4 (iii) whether any changes to the com-
5 position of the eligible consortium or revi-
6 sions to the plan or strategy described in
7 subparagraph (C)(ii) would improve the
8 competitiveness of United States manufac-
9 turing; and

10 (iv) such other criteria as the Sec-
11 retary considers appropriate.

12 (5) APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible consortium
14 seeking a designation under paragraph (1) shall
15 submit an application to the Secretary at such
16 time and in such manner as the Secretary may
17 require.

18 (B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
19 mitted to the Secretary under subparagraph (A)
20 shall include—

21 (i) a description of the regional
22 boundaries of the consortium;

23 (ii) a description of the manufacturing
24 concentration of the consortium, including
25 an assessment of how the manufacturing

1 concentration of the consortium competi-
2 tively ranks nationally according to meas-
3 ures relating to employment, sales, location
4 quotients for an industry's level of con-
5 centration, or such other measures as the
6 Secretary considers appropriate;

7 (iii) an integrated assessment of the
8 local industrial ecosystem of the region of
9 the consortium, which may include assess-
10 ment of workforce and training, supplier
11 network, research and innovation, infra-
12 structure or site development, trade and
13 international investment, operational im-
14 provements, and capital access components
15 needed for manufacturing activities in such
16 region;

17 (iv) an evidence-based plan for devel-
18 oping components of such ecosystem (se-
19 lected by the consortium)—

20 (I) by making specific invest-
21 ments to address gaps in such eco-
22 system; and

23 (II) by making the manufac-
24 turing of the region of the consortium
25 uniquely competitive;

(v) a description of the investments

the consortium proposes and the imple-

to use to address gaps in such ecosystem;

5 (vi) a description of the outcome-

(vi) a description of the outcome-

based metrics, benchmarks, and milestones

7 that the consortium will track and the

evaluation methods the consortium will use

9 while designated as a manufacturing com-

munity to gauge performance of the strat-

11 egy of the consortium to improve the man-

ufacturing in the region of the consortium;

13 and

(vii) such other matters as the Sec-

15 retary considers appropriate.

16 (6) EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-

retary shall evaluate each app

18 paragraph (5) to determine—

(A) whether the applicant demonstrates a

20 significant lev

21 proposal; and

(B) how the manufacturing concentration

23 of the applicant competitively ranks nationally

according to measures described in paragraph

25 (5)(B)(ii).

(7) CERTAIN COMMUNITIES PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED.—Each consortium that was designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary in carrying out the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership initiative of the Department of Commerce before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed a manufacturing community designated under this subsection if such consortium is still designated as a manufacturing community by the Secretary as part of such initiative.

11 (c) SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATED MANUFACTURING

12 COMMUNITIES.—

(1) PREFERENTIAL CONSIDERATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (D), if a member of a consortium designated as a manufacturing community under subsection (b) seeks financial or technical assistance under a participating program of a participating agency, the head of such agency may give preferential consideration to such member with respect to the awarding of such financial or technical assistance if—

23 (i) such head considers the award of
24 the financial or technical assistance con-

1 sistent with the economic development
2 strategy of the consortium; and

3 (ii) the member otherwise meets all
4 applicable requirements for the financial or
5 technical assistance.

6 (B) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Sec-
7 retary shall invite other Federal agencies to be-
8 come participating agencies of the Manufac-
9 turing Community Support Program.

10 (C) PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS.—The head
11 of each participating agency shall identify all
12 programs administered by such participating
13 agency that are applicable to the Manufacturing
14 Community Support Program.

15 (D) MULTIPLE MEMBERS OF THE SAME
16 CONSORTIUM SEEKING THE SAME FINANCIAL
17 OR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

18 (i) IN GENERAL.—If a participating
19 agency receives applications for the same
20 financial or technical assistance from more
21 than one member of the same consortium
22 designated as a manufacturing community
23 under subsection (b), the head of such
24 agency may determine how preference will
25 be given under subparagraph (A), includ-

1 ing by requiring the consortium to select
2 which of the members should be given
3 preference.

25 (3) FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Under the Manufacturing
2 Community Support Program, the head
3 of a participating agency may award financial
4 or technical assistance to a member of a consortium
5 designated as a manufacturing community
6 under subsection (b) as he or she considers appropriate
7 for purposes of such program and
8 consistent with the economic development strategy
9 of the consortium.

10 (B) USE OF FUNDS.—
11 (i) IN GENERAL.—A recipient of financial or technical assistance under subparagraph (A) may use such financial or technical assistance to support an investment in an ecosystem that will improve the competitiveness of United States manufacturing.

12 (ii) INVESTMENTS SUPPORTED.—Investments supported under this subparagraph may include—

- 13 (I) infrastructure;
- 14 (II) access to capital;
- 15 (III) promotion of exports and
16 foreign direct investment;

(IV) equipment or facility up-
grades;

3 (V) workforce training or retrain-
4 ing;

5 (VI) energy or process efficiency;

6 (VII) business incubators;

7 (VIII) site preparation;

8 (IX) advanced research;

⁹ (X) supply chain dev.

0 and

and

(XI) small business assistance.

(4) COORDINATION.—

20 (i) to leverage complementary activi-
21 ties, including from non-Federal sources,
22 such as philanthropies; and

(ii) to avoid duplication of efforts.

24 (d) RECEIPT OF TRANSFERRED FUNDS.—The Sec-
25 retary may accept amounts transferred to the Secretary

- 1 from the head of another participating agency to carry out
- 2 this section.

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